Tsa nii ta pii? - by Raymond Kingfisher

Oki niiksokowaaksi,

Wow! We marched right through April and into May. I have been doing some research about education and how it affects Native American people. From my experience, I see western education does have some good and bad. The Indigenous people have always had ways of educating their youth, societies, clanships, and right of way ceremonies. Some of it had to do with environment, survival and knowledge. The knowledge being passed down from the older people to the younger people. Back in those days it was life or death.

It may have been something that some may have lost along the way, but it is still there. It has become something that is sought out. In today’s world it does not necessarily have to do with hunting to eat to survive, but then again it does, if that makes sense. Without the knowledge to hunt the probability is unlikely of making a kill to eat and live comfortably. Just a thought, without some sort of knowledge hunting, for a job, and making a killing (wage) you will not be able to eat and live comfortably. As Indigenous people we had to learn from the natural beings around us. We watched and observed how they lived gaining something from listening, watching and using it for oneself.

I was approached by a male teacher the other day. He thanked me for being there in the school and for the interactions that I have with the Native American Students. I graciously thanked this man back as I have observed the work that the educators do on a daily basis. At the beginning of the year there was a meeting held with a student, mother and teachers. During that meeting I noticed that there was a lot of generalizing of “Native Americans.” When it was my time to speak, I passed some knowledge about the Piikani. I spoke about how knowledge is passed through our beliefs, stories and that all tribes are different and have their own ways.

The teacher told me, “what you said in that meeting was eye opening for me!” I encouraged him to continue what you have learned and ask if you need anything else.

This is a story I wanted to share with you good folks. We have many great students, 6th-8th grade that have their ups and downs. For the most part they are there at school to gain knowledge. But, I ask that the parents of these young people to pass on what you know of your people. We live in the urban area, but we still come from great people. The old ones are proud of all of you, but I am sure they would also like to see you be proud of being Amskapi Piikani, Aaanih, Apsáalooke, Tsétséhéstâhese, Sót’ae’o’o, Assiniboine, Nakota, Chippewa Cree, Salish, the Pend d’Oreille, Kootenai or any of the tribe(s) that you come from. Have a great day!

Raymond Kingfisher
Native American Specialist
C.S. Porter, Meadow Hill, and Washington
728-2400 X1047 or rdkingfisher@mcps.k12.mt.us
Facebook: MCPS Indian Education
Flathead Youth Initiative Conference

Open to all Native High School Students!

“Honoring Our Roots” is a 2-day conference held at the Salish Kootenai College and is an overnight trip. Must be a registered client to participate.

Monday, May 13th & Tuesday, May 14th

58138 US-93, Pablo, MT

Empowering Native youth through cultural connection.

Please contact Dana at dkingfisher@muihc.org for more information
## Mission:
Help Native American students achieve academically, culturally, and socially to graduate and become successful lifelong learners.

### 2018-19 Staff Contact Information and School Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Phone 728-2400</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Assigned Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karen Allen</td>
<td>Executive Regional Director/Indian Ed. Dept. Supervisor</td>
<td>Ext. 1054</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kallen@mcps.k12.mt.us">kallen@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td>Big Sky High School, Hawthorne, Jeanette Rankin,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal WhiteShield</td>
<td>Native American Specialist</td>
<td>Ext. 1064</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lewis &amp; Clark, Paxson, Jefferson, Seeley Swan, Lowell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis YellowRobe</td>
<td>Native American Specialist</td>
<td>Ext. 1049</td>
<td><a href="mailto:iyellowrobe@mcps.k12.mt.us">iyellowrobe@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Hammett</td>
<td>Hellgate and Sentinel High School Native American Studies Teacher/Title VI Native American Specialist</td>
<td>Ext. 1028</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mshammet@mcps.k12.mt.us">mshammet@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td>Hellgate High School and Sentinel High School (teacher)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ray Kingfisher</td>
<td>Native American Specialist</td>
<td>Ext. 1047</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rdkingfisher@mcps.k12.mt.us">rdkingfisher@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td>CS Porter, Meadow Hill, &amp; Washington Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>Native American Specialist</td>
<td>Ext. 1068</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenda Weasel</td>
<td>Title VI/Native American Specialist/Data Support Staff</td>
<td>Ext. 1063</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gfweasel@mcps.k12.mt.us">gfweasel@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td>Willard Alternative High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Bell</td>
<td>NAS Teacher</td>
<td>Ext. 8634</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mkbell@mcps.k12.mt.us">mkbell@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td>Big Sky HS, Willard AHS</td>
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### 2018-2019 Title VI Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee

New membership as of November 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca BearCub</td>
<td>President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rebecca_bearcub_goddard@yahoo.com">rebecca_bearcub_goddard@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal White Shield</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:crystalwhiteshield@gmail.com">crystalwhiteshield@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Bell</td>
<td>Teacher Representative and Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mattbell23@gmail.com">mattbell23@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Coon</td>
<td>Parent Representative and Treasurer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:coon.lisa@gmail.com">coon.lisa@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moses Yellowrobe III</td>
<td>Parent Representative</td>
<td><a href="mailto:moses.yellow.robe@gmail.com">moses.yellow.robe@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariah Maxwell-Hawley</td>
<td>Parent Representative</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmaxwell-hawley@mcps.k12.mt.us">mmaxwell-hawley@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Vegas Longtree</td>
<td>Student Representative</td>
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Nitsipohwatsin Numbers

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THREE     NI-OKS-SKA       3
FOUR      NI-SOO           4
FIVE      NI-SII-TOO       5
SIX       NOY              6
SEVEN     IH-KITS-SIH-KA   7
EIGHT     NA-NI-SOO        8
NINE      PIK-SOO          9
TEN       KI-POO           10
Ya'at'eeh from the Great Navajo Nation!

I left Missoula a few weeks ago to move back to my reservation in hopes of working with Navajo students the way I've been able to work with the students in Missoula. I work with middle school students now but miss the little guys at the elementary. So far the journey has been fun and exciting.

Even though this is where I grew up, I still feel like Missoula is home and I miss seeing all the familiar faces and friends I've made while living in Montana. So say hi to each other for me and if you are working in one of my four elementary schools, say hi to the students too.

With April in the rear view and June coming up around the corner, remember that May holds a lot of fun events hosted by the Indian Education Department. Senior dinner is always a great time and this year the department has Salish author, Debra Magpie Earling and Missoula Urban Indian Health Center's Executive Director, D'Shane Barnett, as guest speakers. While this event is put on for seniors and their families, the department also puts on an event that everyone is welcomed to attend.

The department will also be hosting an End of the Year Celebration so keep an eye on the department's Facebook page for updates. If you aren't following them on Facebook then this is at the perfect opportunity to start.

The sun is shining here, the frybread and mutton sandwiches are endless and I definitely don't miss those spring snow storms but I do miss the awesome people who work hard everyday to bring an authentic cultural experience to Missoula Country Public Schools. Say hi to your Native American Specialist and maybe they'll bring you frybread :) Have a great and safe summer!

Thank You Stacy Thacker!!!

2018-19 EVENT CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spooky Scary Halloween RD</td>
<td>Friday October 26, 2018</td>
<td>5:30-8:30 PM</td>
<td>Meadow Hill Middle School</td>
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<td>SUPAMAN Performance</td>
<td>Monday October 29, 2018</td>
<td>5:30-8:30</td>
<td>Meadow Hill Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Gathering</td>
<td>December 14, 2018</td>
<td>5:30-8:30</td>
<td>CS Porter Middle School</td>
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<td>Sunday Funday</td>
<td>January 6,13, 20, 27</td>
<td>1:00-3:00</td>
<td>CS Porter Middle School</td>
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<td>February 10, 24, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native Youth Powwow</td>
<td>Saturday, March 16, 2019</td>
<td>Grand Entry</td>
<td>Sentinel High School</td>
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<td>12pm and 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduating Senior Dinner</td>
<td>Friday, May 16, 2019</td>
<td>6:00-8:00pm</td>
<td>Double Tree Edgewater</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of the Year Gathering</td>
<td>Friday, May 31, 2019</td>
<td>3:00-6:00pm</td>
<td>Hawthorne Elementary</td>
</tr>
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Good Day:

These past three months have been really busy for me. The Title VI Grant Part I is done and submitted. YAAHH. I have been working hard with the Willard students. Building new relationships with the students is always a plus. The start of this New Year has me doing home visits and welcoming new families that have entered our MCPS district.

Getting prepared for the MCPS Native Youth Powwow. I would like to welcome all Missoula community to come and participate in this wonderful event.

Always working hard on getting the monthly data out. Our highest count was in the month of October.
What do you feel are the most important needs of the Indian students in Missoula County Public Schools? Please indicate your thoughts by circling the number.

1. Increase school readiness
2. Integration of Indian specific content into curriculum
3. Academic achievement
4. Knowledge of cultural identity and awareness
5. Enhance problem solving and cognitive skill development
6. School attendance rate
7. School dropout rate
8. Graduation rate
9. Career readiness skills
10. College enrollment
11. Substance abuse prevention
12. Increase parent participation

Other suggestions: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Rank the three most important needs:
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please check the category(ies) that describe you (check all that apply):

Native American  ____ Yes   No  ____

 ____ Parent/Guardian

 ____ Community Member

 ____ High School Student

 ____ Middle School Student

 ____ Elementary School Student

 ____ Missoula County Public Schools District Employee

What do you think is working well in the Missoula County Public Schools Indian Education Department?

Are there areas that you would like to see addressed by the school district or services that you would like to see offered by the Indian Education Department?

Please drop this by or mail to:

Missoula County Public Schools
Indian Ed. Department B2
215 S. 6th Street West
Missoula, MT  59801
Aloha from snowy Montana!
Mr. Bell's Native American Studies Class is underway for the 2nd semester. We have started out this story telling season with a variety of stories from Blackfeet and Assiniboine texts. We be including stories from more tribes as the year continues but if any community member would like to share others or even come in to class to share, we would sure appreciate it!
We will also be taking a quick peek at the OPI Guide to Understanding and Enjoying Powwows. Again, community members are very welcome to come in and share!
Pinamaya and have a good day everybody!
Matt Bell
April 2019 was a good classroom month. At Lewis & Clark, Paxson, and Lowell schools, I read Thunderboy Jr. to all kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grade classes. I explained the Colville background, showed Colville people, and explained cradleboards to the students. The students liked the story and the main character’s imagination.

At Jefferson Preschool, I read How Rabbit Lost His Tail. The Warm Spring Tribes’ story explains how the Rabbit’s disobedience put him in danger and changed his appearance. The students colored and created crickets, rabbits, and coyotes: the characters in the story.

I look forward to working with the students the remainder of the school year as they complete their studies and prepare for the summer.
The Big Sky Documentary Film Festival had a lot of Native American focused documentaries this year and I was lucky enough to screen a few of the films and have the directors and producers there to discuss the films with my students in my Hellgate and Sentinel classes. On Tuesday 2/19/2019 we screened Blood Memory with producer Elizabeth Day, Megan Whitney, & Director Drew Nicholas. Blood Memory focuses on Boarding Schools and adoptions. On Wednesday 2/20/2019 at Hellgate we screened two films. The Blackfeet Flood with director Torsten Kjellstrand. This film looked at the 1964 flood that killed 31 people when raging waters hit the Blackfeet Reservation. We also screened Harlem Rap at both Hellgate and Sentinel and were able to hear from student rapper Hunter about the video process and what his song was about. Browning Rising Voices also screened their film at Sentinel as well. This included several students from BHS & their advisors. Browning Rising Voices is about Browning High School’s Poetry Club. Along for the ride was Native American director Ben-Alex Dupris. He is the director of Sweetheart Dancers. Although we didn't get the chance to screen his film, I was happy to have him in my classes supporting other directors.

The MCPS Indian Ed. Department presented Hellgate High School with a set of tribal flags during Diversity week assembly on February 19, 2019. Our department partnered with Missoula Urban Indian Health Center to bring in two dancers for the assembly as well.
E-peve’eseeva! (“It is a good day” in Cheyenne)

Ematsé’omeve! It’s springtime here in Missoula! The “Thunder Beings” have come back for the year!

I have my Read-Aloud programs up and running at Jeannette Rankin and Hawthorne Elementary Schools. Stories that been read to the K-2 students are:

Her Seven Brothers by Paul Goble
The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses by Paul Goble
The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush by Tomie dePaola

During lunch groups at the two school locations, I have been actively teaching students how to count from 1-10 in the Blackfeet and Crow Languages. This coming May, I will also be teaching students how to count in Cheyenne, Dakota, and Cree, as well as learning how to say words for animals. This has been a mission of mine to try and teach “The Basics” to the younger students in our district. So far, it’s been pretty fun!

At Big Sky High School, myself and the support staff team have been finding ways to motivate students to finish out the year strong. With graduation and summer approaching, it has been challenging to keep students on track to graduate, attend school regularly, and to bring up grades. Please remember that the grades your students end with this year, will affect their eligibility for sports and activities for the fall, this includes 8th grade students going into High School. If your student is having a hard time in their classes, please let me know how I can help.

Also, at Big Sky High School, I have teamed up with WyAnn Northrup in the Special Education department. We are starting a monthly Read-Aloud program for her students. This month, WyAnn brought in the “Buffalo Box” which is loaned to the district, is a box made of buffalo rawhide with tools that tribes would use including a bone awl, sinew, hooves, a bladder, a hide scraper, and other items/tools that were useful. Along with the buffalo box, I chose to read the story, “The Return of the Buffaloes”, by Paul Goble. I was able to teach a little history about why the buffalo almost went extinct, as well as teaching how to say “buffalo” in the Crow, Cheyenne, and Blackfeet Languages. On May 10th, I will be showing the students how to make frybread. Mmmm!

High School Students had an opportunity to attend the UM NAS Native Youth Conference, the week of the Kyi Yo Celebration. Students got to hear some outstanding Native leaders, artists and keynote speakers. Another opportunity was presented to our department soon after. A few MCPS seniors got to take a trip to the Salish Kootenai College to explore the many different programs that are being offered there. It was very interesting to learn that they have a dual enrollment option for current juniors that will be seniors next year! Another conference is coming in May, so if your student is interested, please contact the Missoula Urban Indian Health Center for more information.

Néá'eše. Thank you. Crystal White Shield (406)728-2400 x1064
 cwhiteshield@mcps.k12.mt.us Nea'ese! AHO! (“Thank you” in Cheyenne and Kiowa)
Title VI Parent Advisory Committee—Rebecca BearCub

Rebecca BearCub
MCPS Title VI Chair 2018-2019

We are almost to the finish line! This school year has gone by fast. We have over 40 Native Seniors who will be graduating this year. The Title VI Parent Advisory Committee would like to thank everyone who has came out & supported us, & our fundraiser efforts. We raised over $5,000 for the Native Senior Dinner & couldn’t have done it without community support. This fall PAC will have four new faces, but the goals will be the same, & that is to support our students & families. Watch the MCPS Indian Ed Facebook page for events for the school year, reach out for questions or general help or information. For the past three years it has been an honor to serve on PAC, with the past two being Chair, & it’s been an honor to be part of your children’s education! Wishing everyone a safe & eventful summer!

Rebecca BearCub
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